

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, claim 43 wherein the address is a mailing address.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, claim 43 wherein the address is an email address.

10-30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, claim 76 wherein the server system is coupled to the database via a world wide network of computers.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30 claim 76 wherein the server system is coupled to a world wide network of computers, and further comprising a user computer coupled with the server system via the worldwide network of computers.

33. (Previously Amended) The system of claim 32 wherein the first code is configured to receive the subject from the user via the world wide network of computers, and wherein the sixth code is configured to provide to the user the second scores or the ranking of the expertise of the entities via the world wide network of computers.

34-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) An automated method for identifying and displaying entities having expertise in one or more subjects, the method comprising:

querying a database for documents relevant to a subject, the documents being indicative of expertise in one or more subject areas;

calculating a first score for each relevant document based on one or more indicators of expertise in the subject;

determining entities associated with each relevant document, each of the entities being associated with one or more documents in a set of documents, the entities including at least one institution, at least one author, and at least one geographic region;

wherein the determining of the at least one institution associated with a relevant document includes determining from a document in the set of documents an affiliated institution of the at least one author;

wherein determining a geographic region associated with a relevant document includes determining an address of an entity, the address determined at least in part on a document in the set of documents associated with the entity;

calculating a second score for each entity based on the first scores of the one or more documents in the set of documents associated with each entity;

calculating a third score for each of a plurality of geographic regions based on the second scores of each entity located within each geographic region;

ranking expertise associated with the plurality of entities based on the second scores for each entity;

ranking expertise associated with the plurality of geographic regions based on the third scores for each geographic region;

hierarchically displaying to a user the ranking of expertise of the plurality of geographic regions;

wherein the hierarchical displaying includes displaying a user-selectable reference to one or more entities associated with each geographic region, the user-selectable reference to one or more entities further displaying a hierarchical

ranking of expertise of the one or more entities associated with the selected geographic region;

wherein the displaying the ranking of expertise includes at least one of graphically or numerically depicting levels of expertise.

44. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the database comprises one or more of the following:

the Westlaw database;
the Lexis database; and
the Science Citation Index.

45. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the database is a Medlars database.

46. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the database is the Pubmed database.

47. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the database is a subset of the internet.

48. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the first score for each relevant document is based on a characteristic of the relevant document.

49. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the characteristic is a length of the relevant document.

50. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the characteristic is a publication date or age of the relevant document.

51. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the characteristic is existence of the document.

52. (New) The method of claim 48 wherein the characteristic is a type of the relevant document.

53. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the type is a practice guideline.

54. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the type is a review.

55. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the type is a correspondence.

56. (New) The method of claim 52 wherein the type is a clinical trial.

57. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the first score for each relevant document is based on citations of the document.

58. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the first score for each relevant document is based on a characteristic of the venue in which the document was published.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the characteristic comprises an impact factor of a journal.

60. (New) The method of claim 58 wherein the characteristic is membership of a journal in a set of journals.

61. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the first score for each relevant document is based on a number of relevant documents.

62. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an author entity is based on a number of authors of a document in the set of documents associated with the author entity.

63. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an author entity is based on a rank position of the author entity in the list of authors of a document in the set of documents associated with the author entity.

64. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an author entity is based on the author entity being the first author in the list of authors of a document in the set of documents associated with the author entity.

65. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an author entity is based on the author entity being the last author in the list of authors of a document in the set of documents associated with the author entity.

66. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an institution entity is based on a distance from the institution entity to a geographical location.

67. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an institution entity is based on an expense to travel to the institution.

68. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an geographical entity is based on a distance from the geographical entity to a geographical location.

69. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the second score for an geographical entity is based on an expense to travel to the geographical entity.

70. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the graphically depicting levels of expertise includes displaying alphanumeric symbols.

71. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein the documents describe other documents.

72. (New) The method of claim 43 wherein querying a database of documents relevant to a subject includes accepting a query term from a user.

73. (New) The method of claim 43 further including mapping the query term to a set of subjects.

74. (New) The method of claim 73 where the set of subjects comprises the MeSH (Medical Subject Headings) set of subjects.

75. (New) The method of claim 74 further including querying the database of documents for documents relevant to each subject in the set of subjects.

76. (New) A system for assessing expertise associated with an entity in a subject, the system comprising a server system coupled with a database of documents, the server system having a memory including:

- a first code configured to receive a subject from a user;
- a second code configured to query the database for documents relevant to the subject, the documents being indicative of expertise in one or more subject areas;
- a third code configured to calculate a first score for each relevant document based on one or more indicators of expertise in the subject;
- a fourth code configured to determine entities associated with each relevant document, each of the entities being associated with one or more documents in a set of documents, the entities including at least one institution, at least one author, and at least one geographic region;
- wherein the determining of the at least one institution associated with a relevant document includes determining from a document in the set of documents an affiliated institution of the at least one author;
- wherein determining a geographic region associated with a relevant document includes determining an address of an entity, the address determined at least in part on a document in the set of documents associated with the entity;
- a fifth code configured to calculate a second score for each entity based on the first scores of the one or more documents in the set of documents associated with each entity;
- a sixth code configured to calculate a third score for each of a plurality of geographic regions based on the second scores of each entity located within each geographic region;

a seventh code configured to rank expertise associated with the plurality of entities based on the second scores for each entity;

an eighth code configured to rank expertise associated with the plurality of geographic regions based on the third scores for each geographic region; and

a ninth code configured to hierarchically display to a user the ranking of expertise of the plurality of geographic regions;

wherein the hierarchically displaying includes displaying a user-selectable reference to one or more entities associated with each geographic region, the user-selectable reference to one or more entities further displaying a hierarchical ranking of expertise of the one or more entities associated with the selected geographic region;

wherein the displaying the ranking of expertise includes at least one of graphically or numerically depicting levels of expertise.